

DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT.**Season and Crop Report.**

READ—

Correspondence ending with letter No. C. Per A. 19—28-29, dated the 17th--19th July 1929, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, forwarding the Season and Crop Report for the State, for the year 1927-28, with his review thereon on the several tables of the Report.

2. Letter No. ROC 2218 H. C. 863—28-29, dated the 3rd July 1929, from the Director of Agriculture in Mysore, communicating his views on the Season and Crop Report for the year 1927-28

ORDER No. D. 1885-1944—STCS. 34-28-8, DATED 17TH AUGUST 1929.

Recorded.

Seasonal Conditions.—The average rainfall during the year under review was 37.31 inches as against 35.69 inches during the previous year, showing an increase of 1 inch and 62 cents. The Murgar rains were timely and well distributed in the Tumkur, Shimoga, Kadur and Mysore Districts but they were not so favourable in the Bangalore, Kolar, Hassan and Chitaldrug Districts.

Area of the State and its Classification.—The total area of the State by professional survey is 1,88,97,962 acres as against 1,88,97,978 acres in the previous year. Of this, 13,24,117 acres consist of alienated tracts such as Jahag'rs, Jodi villages, etc. The balance, viz., 17,573,845 acres, represents the net area of the State as against 17,573,852 acres during the previous year.

Out of a total extent of 17,573,845 acres, 1,930,129 acres were covered by Forests and 6,920,180 acres were not available for cultivation, being public topes, Government plantations, and lands reserved for pasture or covered by buildings, water, and roads or appropriated for purposes other than agriculture. The extent of cultivable waste was 650,041 acres. The remaining extent of 8,073,495 acres was in occupancy as against 8,025,146 acres during 1926-27. The total extent actually brought under cultivation increased from 6,464,568 acres to 6,493,446 acres during the year under review, showing an increase of 28,878 acres in the net area cropped during the year. The area under current fallows also increased from 1,560,578 acres to 1,580,049 acres.

An extent of 1,139,695 acres of land was irrigated from the several sources of irrigation, such as canals, tanks, wells, etc., as against 1,081,331 acres in the previous year and the gross area under irrigated crops rose from 1,092,662 to 1,162,144 acres.

Specification of Crops.—The total area cropped during the year under review was 6,677,031 acres as against 6,780,248 acres during the previous year. Deducting 183,585 acres, being the area cropped more than once, the remaining 6,493,446 acres represent the net area cropped during the year showing an increase of 28,878 acres over the corresponding figures for 1926-27.

It is satisfactory to note that the areas under Rice, Horsegram, Cholum and Groundnut showed an appreciable increase, especially those under the last two crops. On the other hand the area under Ragi which forms the most important and staple food grain of the State, fell from 2,304,069 acres in the previous year to 2,298,513 acres during the year under review. In the Chitaldrug District, the decrease is said to be due both to the want of rain and the substitution of the more profitable groundnut for the ragi. The rapid increase of the area under groundnuts (from 1,95,096 in the previous year to 2,54,405 in the year under review) is perhaps the most striking feature in the report; and this is a feature which Government view with satisfaction as groundnut is about the most profitable money crop in Mysore for unirrigated land.

Incidence of Land Revenue.—The incidence of Land Revenue per head of population was Rs. 2-5-3 as against Rs. 2-4-2 in the previous year.

Exports and Imports (by rail) of the Chief Agricultural Products.—During the year under review, cocoanut, paddy, ragi, groundnut, betelnuts, coriander, tobacco, sugar, jaggery and molasses were exported in greater quantities than in the previous year. Fresh fruits and vegetables, dried fruits and nuts, rice (not in husk), wheat, cotton seeds, coriander, refined sugar, were among the most important articles which were imported in larger quantities than in the previous year.

General.—Government regret to observe that though on the whole the Season and Crop Report for 1927-28, indicates rather more care in preparation than its predecessor, the figures given in it were still in many cases inaccurate and entailed some labour for rectification.

Government trust that with strict instructions from the Revenue Commissioner, future returns will show a marked and progressive improvement in this regard.

N. RAMA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Departments.

FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT.

Public Accounts Committee.

READ—

Audit and Appropriation Report of the Comptroller on the accounts for the year 1927-28, received with his letter No. 1470, dated 14th February 1929.

2. Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation Accounts for 1927-28.

ORDER No. FL. 1078-1138—G. F. 46-29-1, DATED 12TH—14TH AUGUST 1929.

The report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation Accounts for 1927-28 was placed before the Legislative Council at the session held in June—July 1929 and was approved by that Body.

2. Government have considered the report and desire to record their appreciation of the care, industry and ability with which the Committee have conducted their scrutiny.

3. Government are pleased to pass the following orders on the more important points brought to notice as the result of the investigation by the Committee.

4. Government share the satisfaction which the Committee have expressed at the successful working of the system of providing some of the large spending Departments with internal audit organisations of their own and note the recommendation for the gradual extension of the scheme of giving Account Assistants to other Heads of Departments who have to deal with financial transactions of magnitude.

PART I.

5. *Paras 4 to 7-7A of the Report. Variations between Grant and Actuals.*—The Committee have commented on the large lapses under certain heads and on the wide divergence between estimates and actuals especially under Capital, Depreciation Funds, and Loans and Advances. While there is some improvement in this respect over the last year's results the occurrence of heavy lapses continues to be a repeating feature year after year. Supplementary grants are obtained even in cases where the actual expenditure is well within the original grants. Government agree with the Committee that insistent efforts are necessary to secure a better approximation of the programme of sanctions to actuals than at present and that possibilities of reappropriation should be fully explored by Heads of Departments before applying